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09/747,661	12/22/2000	Raymond J. Kelley	GEMS:0120/yod 15-EC-5771	9840
7590	04/26/2005		EXAMINER	
Patrick S. Yoder Suite 330 7915 FM 1960 West Houston, TX 77070			MORGAN, ROBERT W	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3626	

DATE MAILED: 04/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/747,661

**Applicant(s)**

KELLEY ET AL.

**Examiner**

Robert W. Morgan

**Art Unit**

3626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-53 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Notice to Applicant*

1. In the amendment filed 1/10/05 the following has occurred: Claims 1, 19, 21-26, 28-31, 33-37, 39-41, 43-47 and 49-53 have been amended. Claim 6 (second occurrence) has been canceled. Now claims 1-53 are presented for examination.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-4, 7-13, 15 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Number 5,748,907 to Crane in view of US Patent Number 6,604,084 to Powers, for the substantially the same reasons give in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04) further in view of US Patent Number 6,260,021 to Wong et al. Further reasons appear below.

(A) Claims 2-4, 7-13, 15 and 18 have not been amended, and are rejected for the same reasons given in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04), and incorporated herein. Further reasons appear hereinbelow.

(B) Claim 1 has been amended to now recite "...plurality of medical system modalities, the client data comprising operational data relating to a medical system employed at a medical facility, the medical system comprising a medical diagnostic system".

As per this limitation, Crane and Powers teach electronically directing client data transmitted from a remote interface to a analysis system via a network, wherein the analysis

Art Unit: 3626

system is configured to evaluate a plurality of medical resources associated with at least one of a plurality of modalities, the client data comprising operation data relating to a medical system employed at a medical facility and analyzing the data with an analysis system (Master Processor) (101) (see: Crane: Figure 1, Col. 3, Ln. 59-Col.4, Ln. 6; Col. 6, Ln. 56-Col. 7, Ln. 3; Col. 7, Ln. 50-59; Col. 8, Ln. 51-67). Crane and Powers teach analyzing data for productivity and generating reports (see Power: Col. 3, Ln. 42-Col. 4, Ln. 25).

Crane and Powers fail to explicitly teach client data from medical system modalities comprising a medical diagnostic system.

Wong et al. teaches a computer based medical image distribution system including picture archiving and communication (PAC) such as X-ray imaging, computed X-ray tomography, ultrasound imaging, and so forth (see: column 1, lines 21-28). Wong et al. also teaches an object request broker (ORB) (52, Fig. 2) component, which is present on different computers and is responsible for transparently managing, locating, and communicating between client and server objects (see: column 6, lines 19-22). In addition, the ORB is responsible for object management, including, for example, object activation and termination, object persistence, and so forth (see: column 9, lines 34-55). The Examiner the communication between the client and server objects to including client data from the different PAC system.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to include PAC system as taught by Wong et al. with the system taught by Crane and Powers with the motivation of enabling uniform access to and ready distribution of medical images and associated records in electronic form via a network (see: Wong et al.: column 1, lines 6-11).

Art Unit: 3626

4. Claims 19-21, 24-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Number 5,748,907 to Crane in view of US Patent Number 6,604,084 to Powers, for the substantially the same reasons give in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04) further in view of US Patent Number 6,260,021 to Wong et al. Further reasons appear below.

(A) Claim 20 have not been amended, and are rejected for the same reasons given in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04), and incorporated herein. Further reasons appear hereinbelow.

(B) Claim 19 has been amended to now recite "...a medical resources comprising a medical diagnostic system" and "...procedure data associated with the medical diagnostic system, ...".

As per this limitation, Crane and Powers teach a remote interface configured for exchanging information an analysis system (Master Processor-101) via a network, the remote interface having a means for transmitting client data comprising medical procedure data associated with a medical system (see: Crane: Figure 1, Col. 3, Ln. 59-Col.4, Ln. 6; Col. 6, Ln. 56-Col. 7, Ln. 3; Col. 7, Ln. 50-59; Col. 8, Ln. 51-67). In addition, Crane and Powers teach which teaches analyzing data for productivity and generating reports (see: Powers: Col. 3, Ln. 42-Col. 4, Ln. 25).

Crane and Powers fail to teach a medical resources comprising a medical diagnostic system" and "...procedure data associated with the medical diagnostic system, ...".

Wong et al. teaches a computer based medical image distribution system including picture archiving and communication (PAC) such as X-ray imaging, computed X-ray tomography, ultrasound imaging, and so forth (see: column 1, lines 21-28). Wong et al. also teaches an object request broker (ORB) (52, Fig. 2) component, which is present on different

Art Unit: 3626

computers and is responsible for transparently managing, locating, and communicating between client and server objects (see: column 6, lines 19-22). In addition, the ORB is responsible for object management, including, for example, object activation and termination, object persistence, and so forth (see: column 9, lines 34-55).

The obviousness of combining teachings of Wong et al. with the system of Crane and Powers are discussed in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(C) Claims 21, 24-26 and 28 have been amended to now recite "...medical resource database having operating statistics for the medical diagnostic system..."

As per this limitation, Crane and Powers teach the step of receiving data from a plurality of medical systems comprising multiple medical imaging (testing) systems (see: Crane: Figure 1). Crane and Powers teach the step of selecting at least one medical system (see: Crane: Figure 4, Col. 8, Ln. 15-25). Crane and Powers also teach comprising data input means for entering the other recited types of data (see: Crane: Col. 7, Ln. 50-59, Col. 12, Ln. 27-58 and Col. 14, Ln. 27-41).

Crane and Powers fail to explicitly teach "...medical resource database having operating statistics for the medical diagnostic system..."

Wong et al. teaches a computer based medical image distribution system including picture archiving and communication (PAC) such as X-ray imaging, computed X-ray tomography, ultrasound imaging, and so forth (see: column 1, lines 21-28).

The obviousness of combining teachings of Wong et al. with the system of Crane and Powers are discussed in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

Art Unit: 3626

5. Claims 31-34 and 36-38 are rejected under are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Number 5,748,907 to Crane in view of US Patent Number 6,604,084 to Powers, for the substantially the same reasons give in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04) further in view of US Patent Number 6,260,021 to Wong et al. Further reasons appear below.

(A) Claims 32 have not been amended, and are rejected for the same reasons given in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04), and incorporated herein. Further reasons appear hereinbelow.

(B) Claim 31 has been amended to now recite "...a medical resources comprising a medical diagnostic system" and "...procedure data associated with the medical diagnostic system, ...".

As per this limitation, Crane and Powers teach a remote interface configured for exchanging information an analysis system (Master Processor-101) via a network, the remote interface having a means for transmitting client data comprising medical procedure data associated with a medical system (see: Crane: Figure 1, Col. 3, Ln. 59-Col.4, Ln. 6; Col. 6, Ln. 56-Col. 7, Ln. 3; Col. 7, Ln. 50-59; Col. 8, Ln. 51-67). In addition, Crane and Powers teach which teaches analyzing data for productivity and generating reports (see: Powers: Col. 3, Ln. 42-Col. 4, Ln. 25).

Crane and Powers fail to teach a medical resources comprising a medical diagnostic system" and "...procedure data associated with the medical diagnostic system, ...".

Wong et al. teaches a computer based medical image distribution system including picture archiving and communication (PAC) such as X-ray imaging, computed X-ray tomography, ultrasound imaging, and so forth (see: column 1, lines 21-28). Wong et al. also

Art Unit: 3626

teaches an object request broker (ORB) (52, Fig. 2) component, which is present on different computers and is responsible for transparently managing, locating, and communicating between client and server objects (see: column 6, lines 19-22). In addition, the ORB is responsible for object management, including, for example, object activation and termination, object persistence, and so forth (see: column 9, lines 34-55).

The obviousness of combining teachings of Wong et al. with the system of Crane and Powers are discussed in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(C) Claims 33-34 and 36-37 have been amended to now recite "...medical resource database having operating statistics for the medical diagnostic system..."

As per this limitation, Crane and Powers teach the step of receiving data from a plurality of medical systems comprising multiple medical imaging (testing) systems (see: Crane: Figure 1). Crane and Powers teach the step of selecting at least one medical system (see: Crane: Figure 4, Col. 8, Ln. 15-25). Crane and Powers also teach comprising data input means for entering the other recited types of data (see: Crane: Col. 7, Ln. 50-59, Col. 12, Ln. 27-58 and Col. 14, Ln. 27-41).

Crane and Powers fail to explicitly "...medical resource database having operating statistics for the medical diagnostic system..."

Wong et al. teaches a computer based medical image distribution system including picture archiving and communication (PAC) such as X-ray imaging, computed X-ray tomography, ultrasound imaging, and so forth (see: column 1, lines 21-28).

The obviousness of combining teachings of Wong et al. with the system of Crane and Powers are discussed in claim 1, and incorporated herein.



Art Unit: 3626

6. Claims 41-53 is rejected under are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Number 5,748,907 to Crane, US Patent Number 6,604,084 to Powers, US Patent Number 6,314,565 to Kenner, for the substantially the same reasons give in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04) further in view of US Patent Number 6,260,021 to Wong et al. Further reasons appear below.

(C) Claim 41 has been amended to now recite, "...client data comprising procedure statistics associated with an imaging system" and "...productivity comparison of the imaging system and a proposed upgrade imaging system".

As per this limitation, Crane, Powers and Kenner teach the steps of electronically directing client data transmitted from a remote interface to a analysis system via a network, wherein the analysis system is configured to evaluate a plurality of medical resources associated with at least one of a plurality of modalities, the client data comprising operation data relating to a medical system employed at a medical facility and analyzing the data with an analysis system (Master Processor) (101) (see: Crane: Figure 1, Col. 3, Ln. 59-Col.4, Ln. 6; Col. 6, Ln. 56-Col. 7, Ln. 3; Col. 7, Ln. 50-59; Col. 8, Ln. 51-67). Crane, Powers and Kenner teach analyzing data for productivity and generating reports (see: Powers: Col. 3, Ln. 42-Col. 4, Ln. 25). In addition, Crane, Powers and Kenner teach the step of transmitting the productivity analysis report to the client via the network (see: Powers: Figure 1 and Col. 3, Ln. 43-Col. 4, Ln. 25). Crane, Powers and Kenner teach a procedure which allows a user to compare two or more versions of software so that the user can see the enhancements (evaluate the benefits) (enhancements are improvements in productivity) of the software (see: Kenner: Col. 4, Ln. 54-Col. 5, Ln. 7).

Crane, Powers and Kenner fail to explicitly teach the "an imaging system".

Art Unit: 3626

Wong et al. teaches a computer based medical image distribution system including picture archiving and communication (PAC) such as X-ray imaging, computed X-ray tomography, ultrasound imaging, and so forth (see: column 1, lines 21-28). Wong et al. also teaches an object request broker (ORB) (52, Fig. 2) component, which is present on different computers and is responsible for transparently managing, locating, and communicating between client and server objects (see: column 6, lines 19-22). In addition, the ORB is responsible for object management, including, for example, object activation and termination, object persistence, and so forth (see: column 9, lines 34-55). The Examiner the communication between the client and server objects to including client data from the different PAC system.

One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to include PAC system as taught by Wong et al. with the system taught by Crane, Powers and Kenner with the motivation of enabling uniform access to and ready distribution of medical images and associated records in electronic form via a network (see: Wong et al.: column 1, lines 6-11).

7. Claims 5-6, 14, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane and Powers as applied to Claims 3-4, 13 and 1, above, respectively and in further view of Kenner, for the same reasons give in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04).

8. Claims 22-23 and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane and Powers as applied to Claims 19, 21 and 19 above, respectively, and in further view of Kenner, for substantially the same reasons give in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04), further in view of US Patent Number 6,260,021 to Wong et al. Further reasons appear below.

Art Unit: 3626

(A) Claims 22-23 and 29-30 have been amended to now recite "...selecting the medical diagnostic system employed at the medical facility from a plurality of medical diagnostic system..."

As per this limitation, Crane and Powers teach the step of receiving data from a plurality of medical systems comprising multiple medical imaging (testing) systems (see: Crane: Figure 1). Crane and Powers teach the step of selecting at least one medical system (see: Crane: Figure 4, Col. 8, Ln. 15-25). Crane and Powers also teach comprising data input means for entering the other recited types of data (see: Crane: Col. 7, Ln. 50-59, Col. 12, Ln. 27-58 and Col. 14, Ln. 27-41).

Crane and Powers fail to explicitly teach "medical diagnostic system".

Wong et al. teaches a computer based medical image distribution system including picture archiving and communication (PAC) such as X-ray imaging, computed X-ray tomography, ultrasound imaging, and so forth (see: column 1, lines 21-28).

The obviousness of combining teachings of Wong et al. with the system of Crane and Powers are discussed in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

9. Claims 35 and 39-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane and Powers as applied to Claims 33 and 39 above, respectively, and in further view of Kenner, for substantially the same reasons give in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04), further in view of US Patent Number 6,260,021 to Wong et al. Further reasons appear below.

(A) Claims 35 and 39-40 have been amended to now recite "...medical diagnostic system..."

As per this limitation, Crane, Powers and Kenner teaches a procedure which allows a user to compare two or more versions of software (by selecting multiple software versions (systems)

Art Unit: 3626

for productivity comparison) so that the user can see the enhancements (evaluate the benefits) (enhancements are improvements in productivity) of the software (see: Kenner: Col. 4, Ln. 54-Col. 5, Ln. 7).

Crane and Powers fail to explicitly teach “medical diagnostic system”.

Wong et al. teaches a computer based medical image distribution system including picture archiving and communication (PAC) such as X-ray imaging, computed X-ray tomography, ultrasound imaging, and so forth (see: column 1, lines 21-28).

The obviousness of combining teachings of Wong et al. with the system of Crane and Powers are discussed in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

10. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane in view of Powers as applied to Claim 19 above, for the same reasons give in the previous Office Action (dated 10/6/04).

### ***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments filed 1/10/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant's arguments will be addressed hereinbelow in the order in which they appear in the response 1/10/05.

(A) In the remarks, Applicants argue in substance that, (1) the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness; and (2) None of the references cited teach operational data relating to a medical system employed at a medical facility.

(B) In response to Applicant's argument that, (1) the Examiner fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. The Examiner respectfully submits that obviousness is determined on the basis of the evidence as a whole and the relative persuasiveness of the arguments. See *In re*

Art Unit: 3626

*Oetiker*, 977 F.2d 1443, 1445, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1444 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Hedges*, 783 F.2d 1038, 1039, 228 USPQ 685,686 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *In re Piasecki*, 745 F.2d 1468, 1472, 223 USPQ 785,788 (Fed. Cir. 1984); and *In re Rinehart*, 531 F.2d 1048, 1052, 189 USPQ 143,147 (CCPA 1976). Using this standard, the Examiner respectfully submits that he has at least satisfied the burden of presenting a *prima facie* case of obviousness, since he has presented evidence of corresponding claim elements in the prior art and has expressly articulated the combinations and the motivations for combinations that fairly suggest Applicant's claimed invention (see: dated 10/6/04).

As such, the Examiner recognizes that references cannot be arbitrarily altered or modified and that there must be some reason why one skilled in the art would be motivated to make the proposed modifications. However, although the Examiner agrees that the motivation or suggestion to make modifications must be articulated, it is respectfully contended that there is no requirement that the motivation to make modifications must be expressly articulated within the references themselves. References are evaluated by what they suggest to one versed in the art, rather than by their specific disclosures, *In re Bozek*, 163 USPQ 545 (CCPA 1969).

The Examiner is concerned that Applicant apparently ignores the mandate of the numerous court decisions supporting the position given above. The issue of obviousness is not determined by what the references expressly state but by what they would reasonably suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art, as supported by decisions in *In re DeLisle* 406 Fed 1326, 160 USPQ 806; *In re Kell, Terry and Davies* 208 USPQ 871; and *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 1074, 5 USPQ 2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988) (citing *In re Lahu*, 747 F.2d 703, 705, 223 USPQ 1257, 1258 (Fed. Cir. 1988)). Further, it was determined in *In re Lamberti et al*, 192 USPQ 278

Art Unit: 3626

(CCPA) that:

- (i) obviousness does not require absolute predictability;
- (ii) non-preferred embodiments of prior art must also be considered; and
- (iii) the question is not express teaching of references, but what they would suggest.

Further, according to *In re Jacoby*, 135 USPQ 317 (CCPA 1962), the skilled artisan is presumed to know something more about the art than only what is disclosed in the applied references. In *In re Bode*, 193 USPQ 12 (CCPA 1977), every reference relies to some extent on knowledge of persons skilled in the art to complement that which is disclosed therein.

According to *Ex parte Berins*, 168 USPQ 374 (Bd. Appeals), there is no statutory limitation as to the number of references that may be used to demonstrate obviousness...not what references expressly state but what they would reasonably suggest to one of ordinary skill in the art. In *In re Conrad*, 169 USPQ 170 (CCPA), obviousness is not based on express suggestion, but what references taken collectively would suggest.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that an explanation based on logic and sound scientific reasoning of one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention that support a holding of obviousness has been adequately provided by the motivations and reasons indicated by the Examiner both in the prior Office Action, *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 USPQ2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter., 4/22/93).

(B) In response to Applicant's argument that, (2) None of the references cited teach operational data relating to a medical system employed at a medical facility. The Examiner respectfully submits that

The Examiner respectfully submits that the Crane reference, and not Powers, *per se*, that was relied upon for the specific teaching of a management system of a clinic including a

Art Unit: 3626

processor which receives inputs (operational data) from within the clinic through real-time sensors from test equipment and laboratory equipment that affect the overall operations of the clinic (see: column 6, lines 56-61). Powers was relied on for primarily teaching analyzing data for productivity and generating reports (see: column 3, lines 42 to column 4, lines 25). Thus, the proper combination of the applied references would be the incorporation of Powers' system of analyzing data for productivity and generating reports within the performance evaluation system as taught by Crane.

(C) With regard to Applicant other arguments, it is respectfully submits that the Examiner has applied new prior art to the amended features of claims 1, 19, 21-26, 28-31, 33-37, 39-41, 43-47 and 49-53 at the present time. As such, Applicant's remarks with regard to the application of Crane, Powers and/or Kenner to the amended claims are moot in light of the inclusion of the teachings of Wong et al. addressed in the above Office Action.

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 3626

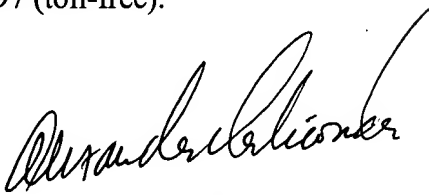
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robert W. Morgan whose telephone number is (571) 272-6773. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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**ALEXANDER KALINOWSKI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**